

willing Americans to do more of the heavy lifting in their communities as we all work to improve our Nation.

Mr. President, I once again commend the Points of Light Institute on this landmark anniversary.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO LAURA RHEA

• Mrs. LINCOLN. Mr. President, it is with great pleasure that today I honor and recognize more than 25 years of service by Laura Rhea to our great State of Arkansas. Laura has served the Arkansas Rice Depot with steadfast leadership as President and CEO, ensuring the organization remained a faith-based ministry and developing innovative solutions to ending hunger.

Hunger and poverty are not just global issues; they are so pervasive that we all have some experience with them in our local communities. Worldwide, three billion people, nearly half the world's population, live on merely \$2 per day. In our Nation alone, almost 36.2 million Americans struggle day in and day out to find adequate nutritious food. More than 12.4 million children live in households that are food insecure. According to the Arkansas Hunger Relief Alliance, approximately 80 percent of supplemental nutrition assistance goes to households with children, many of them in working families, including military families.

In Arkansas, Laura Rhea has been making a difference to reduce those figures. Under her leadership, Arkansas Rice Depot has grown from a small hunger program that distributed only rice, to a comprehensive hunger agency that distributes almost 7 million pounds of food and supplies in Arkansas each year.

Laura grew up in North Little Rock. As a child she dreamed of becoming a missionary, but never dreamed that her mission field would be feeding hungry Arkansans. She is a certified volunteer manager and was recognized as a certified fund raising executive in 1995.

Laura developed Food for Kids, a backpack program serving over 600 schools in Arkansas, sending home backpacks of food to over 25,000 students who face food insecurity. This program has been recognized by the Wall Street Journal, CNN, and has been replicated in over 40 States.

Laura also developed Simple Pleasures, a gourmet gift shop that sells the Rice Depot line of soup and chili mixes. Proceeds from the gift shop are used to purchase food for Rice Depot's hunger relief efforts.

Faith is an important part of Laura's life. In 2003, Laura suffered a heat-stroke unloading a truck. Although she would continue to serve her life's mission from a wheelchair, she is not limited by her disability. She often quotes Psalms 37:11 to sum up her life, "Delight yourself in the Lord and he will give you the desires of your heart."

And last but certainly not least, Laura's family—her husband Don, daughter Allison, and four grandchildren are not only inspirations for her but also stalwart supporters. In fact, her daughter Allison shares her mother's mission and has served the Rice Depot for the past 12 years. In addition, Laura's granddaughter worked there over the summer, bringing three generations of her family to the effort to wipe out hunger.

As you can see, Laura Rhea is a generous, compassionate, and dedicated individual. So as Rice Depot celebrates its 27th year of progress in finding sensible solutions to hunger in Arkansas, I salute The Rice Depot, its staff, the many volunteers, and especially Laura Rhea for their commitment to feeding those who hunger in Arkansas. •

TRIBUTE TO PARKER WESTBROOK

• Mrs. LINCOLN. Mr. President, it is with Arkansas pride that today I honor one of the great sons of the Natural State, Parker Westbrook of Nashville, AR. On October 20, 2009, the Howard County Democratic Central Committee is sponsoring a dinner to honor his lifelong public service to Arkansas and his country.

The day after Christmas in 1948, Westbrook set out with newly elected Congressman Boyd Tackett of Nashville for Washington, DC. Over the course of the next 26 years, Parker served his home State in our Nation's Capital for four members of the Arkansas congressional delegation, most notably as a special assistant to U.S. Senator J. William Fulbright. In 1975, he returned to Arkansas and served as a special assistant to Governor David Pryor.

Although public service in government was a calling for much of Mr. Westbrook's life, his true passion was historic preservation. Westbrook was born in 1926 and was the third generation of the Westbrook-Parker families to live in the home of his maternal grandfather, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The house and farmstead provided Parker with an early appreciation for historic preservation, and after leaving Washington in 1974, he set out on a course to help preserve Arkansas's cultural legacy.

While working for Governor Pryor, Westbrook was elected to the Pioneer Washington Foundation, Inc. Board, a private nonprofit group committed to preserving Historic Washington. Washington, AR, is home to the oldest continuous post office in Arkansas, established on February 23, 1820 shortly after Arkansas became a territory. In 1979, Westbrook became a full-time volunteer and restoration adviser. In 1980, he became the executive director and was elected president of the foundation in 1990. He continued in that role until May of this year.

In 1975, Westbrook was elected to the Historic Arkansas Museum Board of

Directors and has served that organization continuously for 34 years. For many years, he was chairman and now holds the title of chairman emeritus.

Westbrook was also appointed to the Arkansas State Review Board of the Historic Preservation Program in 1975. He was reappointed three times by Governor Bill Clinton and again by Governor Jim Guy Tucker and served as chairman for 4½ years.

In addition, Westbrook has served on a number of other Arkansas historic entities including the Historic Preservation Alliance of Arkansas, Department of Arkansas Heritage Advisory Board, the President William J. Clinton Birthplace Foundation, Corinth Cemetery Association in Howard County, Friends of the Carousel, and Main Street Arkansas Advisory Board.

He has been awarded the Arkansas Historical Association's Endowed History Award and was recognized in 1986 as Arkansas's Distinguished Citizen for his volunteer work.

In 1995, President Clinton recognized Westbrook's longstanding service to historic preservation and appointed him to the President's Council for Historic Preservation where he served until 2003.

In addition, Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt twice appointed Parker to the National Park System Advisory Board where he served as chairman of the Committee on National Historic Landmarks.

As you can see, Parker Westbrook has a long and distinguished career serving his community, Arkansas, and our Nation.

As the Howard County Democratic Central Committee recognizes Mr. Westbrook's service, I extend my sincere thanks and appreciation on behalf of all Arkansans for his devotion and commitment to public service throughout his life. •

275TH ANNIVERSARY OF FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

• Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, I wish to pay tribute to the First Congregational Church, United Church of Christ of South Portland, ME, on the momentous occasion of its 275th anniversary. What a tremendous milestone and enduring testament to the church's centuries of spiritual leadership and goodwill.

Established in 1733, the church held its inaugural worship service in 1734 and has, through its steady growth and exemplary commitment to others, expanded its ministries, championed education for all, and engendered an abiding sense of fellowship for literally hundreds of years. Although the physical buildings of worship may have changed over time, the church's fundamental mission—to foster its congregation's spiritual life while offering outreach to others through words and actions—has not wavered.

Although this church's history and time-honored presence within the

South Portland area are truly remarkable, the First Congregational Church, United Church of Christ concentrates its energies and attention on its current and future role within the greater community—to serve members of its congregation and people whose lives are enriched by the interaction of the ministry, the congregants, and the faith that binds them to a benevolence of purpose that is an inspiration to all.

Through such practical programs as the Discovery Center preschool, the Community Crisis Ministries Program, the Mission and Outreach Team—which offer soup kitchen and food pantry assistance—and the Social Witness Ministries that address current socio-cultural and environmental challenges, this church truly extends its reach beyond its walls in the selfless quest to contribute to others.

As 2009 represents a monumental moment of celebration in the life of the First Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, I wish to offer my heartfelt congratulations and profound gratitude to all who have sustained the dynamic work of this church in centuries past and who will do so for many more years to come.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mrs. Neiman, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 10:46 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 1327. An act to authorize State and local governments to direct divestiture from, and prevent investment in, companies with investments of \$20,000,000 or more in Iran's energy sector, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1700. An act to authorize the Administrator of General Services to convey a parcel of real property in the District of Columbia to provide for the establishment of a National Women's History Museum.

H.R. 2651. An act to amend title 46, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Transportation to establish a maritime career training loan program, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3371. An act to amend title 49, United States Code, to improve airline safety and pilot training, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the House has agreed to the following con-

current resolution, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H. Con. Res. 138. Concurrent resolution recognizing the 40th anniversary of the George Bush Intercontinental Airport in Houston, Texas.

At 1:27 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Niland, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House agrees to the report of the committee of conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 2892) making appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2010, and for other purposes.

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

The President pro tempore (Mr. BYRD) announced that on today, October 15, 2009, he had signed the following enrolled bills, previously signed by the Speaker of the House:

S. 1717. A bill to authorize major medical facility leases for the Department of Veterans Affairs for fiscal year 2010, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1016. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide advance appropriations authority for certain accounts of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2997. An act making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2010, and for other purposes.

At 3:50 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 2423. An act to designate the Federal building and United States courthouse located at 1300 Victoria Street in Laredo, Texas, as the "George P. Kazen Federal Building and United States Courthouse."

The message also announced that pursuant to 20 U.S.C. 955(b), and the order of the House of January 6, 2009, the Speaker appoints the following Members of the House of Representatives to the National Council on the Arts: Ms. McCOLLUM of Minnesota and Mr. CARNAHAN of Missouri.

The message further announced that pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 4355(a), and the order of the House of January 6, 2009, the Speaker appoints the following Members of the House of Representatives to the Board of Visitors to the United States Military Academy: Mr. LEWIS of California and Mr. SHIMKUS of Illinois.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 22. An act to amend title 5, United States Code, to reduce the amount that the United States Postal Service is required to pay into the Postal Service Retiree Health Benefits Fund by the end of fiscal year 2009; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 1327. An act to authorize State and local governments to direct divestiture from, and prevent investment in, companies with investments of \$20,000,000 or more in Iran's energy sector, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

H.R. 1700. An act to authorize the Administrator of General Services to convey a parcel of real property in the District of Columbia to provide for the establishment of a National Women's History Museum; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

H.R. 2423. An act to designate the Federal building and United States courthouse located at 1300 Victoria Street in Laredo, Texas, as the "George P. Kazen Federal Building and United States Courthouse", and to designate the jury room in that Federal building and United States courthouse as the "Marcel C. Notzon II Jury Room"; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

H.R. 2651. An act to amend title 46, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Transportation to establish a maritime career training loan program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

H.R. 3371. An act to amend title 49, United States Code, to improve airline safety and pilot training, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

The following concurrent resolution was read, and referred as indicated:

H. Con. Res. 138. Concurrent resolution recognizing the 40th anniversary of the George Bush Intercontinental Airport in Houston, Texas; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

MEASURES DISCHARGED

The following joint resolution was discharged from the Committee on Foreign Relations pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 2159, and placed on the calendar:

S.J. Res. 18. Joint resolution relating to the approval of the proposed agreement for nuclear cooperation between the United States and the United Arab Emirates.

ENROLLED BILL PRESENTED

The Secretary of the Senate reported that on today, October 15, 2009, she had presented to the President of the United States the following enrolled bill:

S. 1717. An act to authorize major medical facility leases for the Department of Veterans Affairs for fiscal year 2010, and for other purposes.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-3371. A communication from the Director of Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Defense Acquisition Regulation Supplement; Department of Defense Inspector General Address" ((RIN0750-AG34)(DFARS Case 2009-D001)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 13, 2009; to the Committee on Armed Services.